

OBITUARY NOTICE OF HENRY SEYBERT.

BY MONCURE ROBINSON.

(Read before the American Philosophical Society, October 5, 1883.)

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN :

I have occasionally, when asked to write an obituary notice of a departed friend, felt, as a prominent citizen in the earlier days of our Republic is said to have replied, when asked if he would accept a nomination to the Presidency, "The office" (his reply was) "is one not to be sought or declined." The eminent and virtuous citizen who, sixty years ago, made this reply, made it in view of the immense responsibility of the office. But, Mr. President, more or less responsibility attaches to the performance of all the duties of life, and the writer of a brief sketch of the life of a departed fellow-citizen, for the information of the public, is obliged to recollect the motto "*de mortuis nil nisi verum,*" as well as that "*de mortuis nil nisi bonum.*" None of us, sir, are infallible, or free from the frailties which pertain to our humanity, and we should act tenderly and affectionately, as well as truly, in dealing with either frailties or mistakes, especially when, as in the case of our departed friend, they were only *peculiarities* not amounting to a fracture, or a flaw, or even a blemish, in the escutcheon of a life of blended usefulness and goodness.

The friend, Mr. Seybert, of whom you have re-

requested me to write an obituary notice, was at the time of his death the oldest member of our Society; one who at an earlier period in the annals of societies would have borne the title of *its Dean*. He was elected one of its members January the 16th, 1824, three weeks only after the twenty-second anniversary of his birth, at a period when the Society had on its list of members as many distinguished and learned men as at any period before, or since, when (as I presume is still the case), new members were nominated and elected without the slightest previous knowledge of their nomination being proposed, and when in the case of rejected nominations, no one besides those present knew that their names had been presented for consideration. On the 5th of March, 1824, between six or seven weeks after his election, Mr. Seybert read to the Society a clearly written and most interesting analysis of the chrysoberyls of Haddam (Connecticut), and Brazil, a mineral and gem next to the sapphire in hardness, and which had for some years previous attracted much attention on account of its rareness, rather than its value. This inaugural discourse of Mr. Seybert will be found in Volume 2d, Article No. 3, of the new series of transactions of the Society, page 117.

It is proper before proceeding farther, to tell you something of the parentage and early training of Mr. Seybert, which will explain how he became a member of our association at an earlier age than any member

who preceded or succeeded him, since its foundation to this day.

His father, Adam Seybert, was a Philadelphian by birth and education, and distinguished as a chemist and mineralogist, who represented his native city in Congress during eight successive years, three of them (the years 1812, '13 and '14), years of great trial, and at the time characterized as the period of our country's second war of independence. Between the close of this war and 1818 Mr. Seybert found time to prepare and give to the world, whilst performing faithfully his duties as a member of Congress, and in his laboratory, his "*Statistical Annals of the United States of America*," a work reviewed in the Edinburgh Review of January, 1820, by the Rev. Sydney Smith, in an article which speaks of it as "a book of character and authority," "which will form a pretty complete portrait of America, and teach us here to appreciate the country, either as a powerful enemy or a profitable friend."

As a chemist and mineralogist he is spoken of in a work by Professor Benjamin Silliman, of Yale College, entitled "*American Contributions to Chemistry*," page 36, as follows:

"Adam Seybert is one of the few American chemists who enjoyed the advantages, rare at that time, of a training in the School of Mines at Paris, late in the last century. He has left few papers, but his memoir, read before the American Philosophical Society, March 10, 1797, entitled, 'Experiments and Observations on

Land and Sea Air,' is of interest, as the earliest example of such a research on our records. It relates the results of twenty-seven analyses of air made by the author at sea, in a voyage across the Atlantic, and also the comparison of these results with other analyses made by him on land, near Philadelphia, by which comparison he reaches the conclusion that the air over the sea is purer than that over the land; that, while the latter varies with locality, the former is nearly constant; and he then ventures the suggestion that 'perhaps the impurities are absorbed by the agitation of the waves,' a conclusion to which modern investigation, by the use of more exact methods, has also arrived. Considering the imperfect condition of eudiometric methods in Seybert's time, his research and conclusions therefrom are decidedly creditable to his skill and sagacity."

The mother of Henry Seybert was Maria Sarah, daughter of Henry Pepper, Esq., of Philadelphia, one of its wealthy and respected citizens. Mrs. Seybert died during the early infancy of her son, and the care of him in infancy, and responsibility of his whole educational training, thereby devolved exclusively on his father, who remained a widower until his death, in Paris, on the 2d of May, 1825.

I met there a few days after the death of his father, Mr. Henry Seybert, who had accompanied him to Paris, and been there his constant companion and solace, during the critical disease which ended his

father's patriotic and useful life, at the comparatively early age of fifty-two years. He was in deep mourning, and, being naturally reserved, had but few acquaintances among his countrymen in Paris, themselves then comparatively few in number. Being within a few weeks of the same age with him, and sincerely sympathizing with him in his profound sorrow, we became, naturally, in a short time well acquainted. This acquaintance ripened, during our travels together in England the following summer, into a respect and friendship which continued uninterrupted, until we were separated by his death on the 3d of March last.

At that time, and indeed until recently, I knew but little of the honorable and valuable life which Mr. Henry Seybert had been leading for several years previous in his native city. His disposition was taciturn, and he preferred generally listening to the opinions and conversation of others to taking part in conversation himself, and but for the request of the Society to prepare this tribute to his memory, I should probably never have known how highly he was estimated at the time of our first meeting, by eminent chemists and mineralogists, of both Europe and America. Professor Benjamin Silliman, in the volume before quoted from, in which he speaks of Mr. Adam Seybert, makes the following mention in page 74, of the same, of the son:

“Like his father, Adam Seybert, he was educated in the School of Mines in Paris, and was an early contributor to our knowledge of the constitution of Ameri-

can minerals. In 1882 he analyzed the sulphuret of molybdenum from Chester, Pa.; chromate of iron from Maryland and Pennsylvania; the tabular spar pyroxene, and colophonite, of Willsborough, N. Y., and the Maclurite (chondrodite) of New Jersey (in which he independently discovered fluorine as Dr. Lanstaff had done before). He also analyzed the manganesian garnet, found with the cheisoberyl at Haddam, Conn., and the chrysoberyl of the same locality. In 1830 he analyzed the Tennessee meteorite of Bowen, since which date I have been unable to find any further contributions from Mr. Seybert, whose attention was unfortunately diverted from science, to which his early life was so advantageously devoted, to other and less fruitful lines of investigation."

It is to be regretted that Professor Silliman knew but little of the occupations of Mr. Seybert after the death of his father in the spring of 1825. Being the only living descendant of his father and mother, he inherited a large fortune, and it is certainly not singular, that a young gentleman of twenty-three years of age, who had inherited a fortune estimated by his contemporaries at \$300,000, who had been occupied closely for several years in the laboratory, in chemical and mineralogical investigations, which had made him an honored member of our body, and given him a name and reputation among the scientists of Europe, at the early age of twenty-two, but who had at that time seen nothing of the great world, should have

been tempted to give up for some years, to a great extent, the laboratory, for the pleasures of society and travel. To this, is no doubt ascribable the fact that after May, 1825, the period of his father's death, Professor Silliman was unable to find "any further contributions from Mr. Seybert," besides the analysis of the Tennessee meteorite of Bowen in 1830.

It has been suggested that the last sentence above quoted from the discourse of Professor Silliman, had reference to his spiritualistic investigations. If so, Professor Silliman labored under a great mistake as to Mr. Seybert's occupations between 1830 and 1850. During all that period he was certainly much more of a *Materialist than a Spiritualist*, but I think more of a *Christian*, though for a time a doubting one, than either. But notwithstanding his religious doubts, and perplexities, he gave, during that period, both in this country and Europe, where he passed much of it, his attention and aid to works of charity, and valuable enterprises. Among the latter I recollect his perfect confidence, speedily verified, notwithstanding the decided opinions and predictions of Lardner and others to the contrary, in the general adoption, within a brief period, of steamships between America and Europe.

It may indeed be doubted whether the large accession of fortune to Mr. Seybert, on the death of his father, was a fortunate feature in his history, and it very probably was not. Had it been less, he would probably have continued a co-laborer with his friends in

Europe and the United States, in his previous employments, and his reputation as a chemist and mineralogist, would probably have increased in a corresponding ratio with theirs. But it may fairly be inferred from what we now know of his traits of character, that he was one of those who believed in doing their duty in that state of life in which it pleases the Almighty to place them, and if so, he naturally inferred that duty in his own case, was materially modified by the possession of a large fortune, which, properly employed, might enable him to be more widely useful to his fellow-citizens and fellow-men, than he could be even if enrolled with the Elie de Beaumonts of Europe or the most distinguished chemists and mineralogists of America.

The change in the views of Mr. Seybert as to the life most proper for him in the future, was probably adopted soon after the death of his father, and a few weeks previous to his visit to England, in the summer of 1825, referred to in a previous page. We had the good fortune to have as traveling companions in this visit, that pure and excellent man and Christian gentleman, Mr. Nathaniel Chauncey, of Philadelphia, and Mr. Jaquelin Ambler, of Virginia, a member of one of the old and honored families of that State, in its better days.

We harmonized wonderfully in our views as to the places and objects to be visited by us; our scientist, Mr. Seybert, preferring, like the rest of us, a view of

the magnificent residences, and beautiful parks, and venerable Gothic temples of the past, with a brief stay in her manufacturing and commercial cities, to any other disposition of the time at our disposal. We found, in short, our companionship in England so agreeable, that we sought to continue it on our return to Paris by dining frequently together at the same restaurants, and table d'hotes, and passing our evenings at the same theatres, especially the Theatre Français, which, in the winter of 1825 and '26, still numbered Talma and Mars among its attractions. But there was one place in Paris especially attractive to *our partie carrée*. This was the residence of Madame de L., who had been unfortunate in her marriage, but was blessed with a lovely and beautiful little daughter, at the time only five or six years old, who was the pet of all of us. The husband of her mother, though well connected, was extravagant and wasteful in his habits, and had expended not only his own fortune, but a large part of that of his wife, thus creating the necessity of her receiving table boarders, and occupants of rooms, in order to secure the accustomed comforts to herself and daughter. Mr. de L. was occasionally, but not often, one of her guests.

Their daughter, who still retains a great deal of her own and her mother's grace and beauty, sent to myself, as well as Mr. Seybert, two or three years ago, an admirably executed photograph of herself, with a request, which I promptly complied with, that we would

send her ours. But my excellent though modest friend, Mr. Seybert, would not be persuaded that the wish expressed by her, was anything more than a compliment, and I do not think, at the time of his death, that he had sent his. I was truly gratified to find from his will, that though the compliment paid us was not responded to by him, Mr. Seybert did not doubt her warm and affectionate regard.

I ought here to say on what this regard was founded. It was the result of one of those incidents or accidents of life which cause us to realize that "truth is sometimes and not unfrequently stranger than fiction." The fact of Messieurs Chauncey, Seybert, Ambler, and myself dining together at the apartments of Madame de L. made us all feel a strong interest both in Madame de L. and her lovely little daughter. Mr. Seybert remained in Europe for a year or more after the return home of his fellow-travelers, and afterwards divided his time for many years between Europe and the United States, and thus had the opportunity, which they had not, of witnessing the development, in form and feature, as well as in intellect and beautiful nature, of the gifted daughter of Madame de L., and profited of the opportunity to offer to Madame de L. the advance of any funds she might require during the important period between girlhood and womanhood, to procure for her daughter the best instructors in languages and music, and such other accomplishments as she might deem appropriate and desirable for her.

A few years later, when Madame de L. found it necessary to obtain what is termed in France a divorce "*de corps et de biens*" from her husband, in order to protect a small remainder of her property, Mr. Seybert, believing in her ability to manage a large Hotel Garni, well and profitably, advanced to her the means of leasing and furnishing one, advantageously situated on the Rue Castiglione. The enterprise was so successful that, in an unusually brief period, Madame de L. was enabled to return to Mr. Seybert his advances, and leave for herself a modest but sufficient property for her support in her declining years.

It has been forty or more years since these services were rendered by Mr. Seybert, and Mlle. de L. had become within that period the wife of an honorable and respected citizen of Paris, and the mother of attractive and accomplished daughters worthy of their descent. But the services rendered by Mr. Seybert to her mother, now no more, and herself, will never be forgotten by the lovely and accomplished daughter, Madame de Saivre, who was for many years a constant and regular correspondent of Mr. Seybert, and whose affectionate and grateful remembrance was remarkably evinced, during and since, the illness which preceded his death.

Not hearing from him for a longer period than usual, she feared he might be ill, and wrote me asking me to inform her if he was seriously, or dangerously so. In compliance with her request, I gave her several times

information of him during his illness, writing on each occasion as encouragingly as I could, in view of her evident solicitude. When requested by you to write an obituary notice of Mr. Seybert, I thought it probable she could give me, in regard to his views on many subjects, information of interest to his American friends, and expressed in a letter to her the hope that it would be agreeable to her to do so. In reply, I received, in the month of June last, a letter from Madame de Saivre, from which I have copied and translated into English the following extract. It is impossible, I think, to read it carefully without coming to the conclusion that the course of action of Mr. Seybert, during the last half of his life, is most correctly and satisfactorily explained by it.

“ During the long period (says Madame de Saivre)
“ of our acquaintance in France, he occupied himself,
“ at first, a good deal in reading scientific works, and
“ attending lectures on History and Chemistry, but it
“ seemed to me even then that his principal vocation
“ was in doing good. He aided the unfortunate and
“ improvident in their efforts to recover themselves,
“ and lead an honorable existence, and in order to en-
“ rich himself to promote this object, I know estab-
“ lished several persons in America; often, also, I have
“ known that he was not repaid money advanced by
“ him to persons who had profited of his confidence
“ and credulity, but were not in haste to repay the

“ money borrowed by them. Nevertheless he did not
“ weary in being charitable.

“ Years ago Mr. Seybert spoke often to me of his
“ studies in Spiritualism, and of a great mission with
“ which he was charged here below. I confess I did
“ not at the time divine what the mission might be. I
“ asked myself only whether *mediums*, more or less
“ sincere, were not abusing his confidence, in order to
“ guide him, after their fashion, in their interests.
“ Though I made many inquiries, Mr. Seybert never
“ explained himself *clearly* on the subject of *this mis-*
“ *sion*. But now, aided by the knowledge of his last
“ will, I think I understand that beautiful mission which
“ he has made the object of his life, and can inform
“ you what has given rise to it.

“ I recollect hearing Mr. Seybert say (I was then
“ about sixteen years old), that he was discouraged and
“ saddened, that he was studying uselessly, and seeking
“ vainly the shortest and surest way to save his soul,
“ which, in spite of his efforts, he could not see clearly.
“ He had read in the Holy Scriptures that a rich man
“ could no more enter Paradise than a camel could
“ pass through the eye of a needle, and he was tor-
“ mented with the thought that all his attempts to lead
“ a good life were useless, as regarded a future life,
“ *because he was rich*. Our poor friend was really very
“ unhappy, and, I recollect, sought conference with our
“ eminent religious men and casuists, and went even
“ to Rouen to see the Prince de Croy, the Archbishop,

“ on the subject. They all assured him, that this sen-
“ tence was addressed to the *sinful rich only*, and not
“ to those who gave of their goods liberally to the
“ poor. In fine, they affirmed to him that *a really good*
“ *rich man* should *fructify* his property, with the object
“ of distributing it among the poor, and needy, and
“ that on this condition only, could he be sure of reach-
“ ing the Almighty after his death. From this mo-
“ ment, dear sir, the vocation of our friend has been
“ fixed. He has lived modestly, even economically,
“ having reference to his large fortune, in order to ful-
“ fill here below the Christian mission of the good rich
“ man; that is to say, he has *fructified* (increased) the
“ estate which God had confided to him, in order to
“ be able to bestow more on those who suffer! Is not
“ this exemplary and magnificent? May we not feel
“ assured that God has already rewarded our friend?
“ As regards myself, I am persuaded that he was drawn
“ into his studies of Spiritualism, by the hope of finding
“ in it some day the assurance that he was in the best
“ of ways—that of charity.”

We see in the above extract why Mr. Seybert exercised so close an economy in his personal expenses, and reserved his large benefactions until his death. Why he bequeathed so small a proportion of his fortune to his relations and attached friends, most of whom were in easy circumstances, knew his views, and expected nothing from him, and others who, like Mad-

ame de Saivre, knew and approved them, and would not have desired them to be changed.

Few men certainly have lived of more expanded benevolence, but he was especially devoted to the reputation and welfare of his native city, and his views were well defined as to what should be done by him from a sense of duty as a citizen, and to relieve want and suffering.

Many of our older citizens probably recollect that thirty or forty years ago he gave his time and expended large sums of money, in endeavoring to substitute extensively in Philadelphia, soda and other mineral waters at low prices, for alcoholic drinks. At a later period he improved, at considerable cost to himself and with much personal trouble, the *bread* of the city, and within the last eight years he gave to Philadelphia "a magnificent clock and bell, for which, at a special meeting of the Select and Common Councils of the City," on the 10th of July, 1876, the thanks of the city were tendered him. This clock and bell as yet, it is believed, unsurpassed by anything yet executed for a like object in our country, have been doing good service night and day since, "from the tower of Independence Hall," to a large proportion if not to all the inhabitants of our extended city.

The above services of Mr. Seybert to his fellow-citizens could not have been "done in a corner," and were *necessarily* known to many of them, but those who were acquainted with Mr. Seybert knew that his

object in rendering such services was *not to be talked about, but to be useful*. His acts of charity to individuals, manifold more numerous, were known only to their recipients and those whose co-operation was necessary to their being carried out. He was faithful all his life as far as possible to the injunction of our Saviour, in His sermon on the Mount, "Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth."

In the commencement of this discourse, I alluded to traits of character in Mr. Seybert which I termed "peculiarities," but most of which might more properly be termed *exaggerated ideas of duty*. To one of these Madame de Saivre alludes in the extract read by me from her letter, in which she refers to the economical habits of Mr. Seybert, with the object of increasing the amount he purposed giving to the poor at his death. We may, I think, reasonably believe that the Almighty could not have intended that the liberal man, who gives liberally of his goods during his lifetime to the unfortunate and needy, should also economize closely in expenditures probably essential to his health and comfort in order to add to the large amount he designs giving at his death. The opposite of this I cite as one of the peculiarities of this most estimable gentleman. Another equally remarkable and equally creditable has attracted my attention in reading his will; this is *naming* the endowments authorized in the will after one or both of his parents. No one can respect more than the writer of this obitu-

ary notice does, the feeling of reverence and affection which dictated this direction ; but his mother had died in his earliest infancy, eighty-one years ago, and his father fifty-eight years ago, and he, himself, was an aged man.

He could, therefore, not reasonably have been supposed wanting in respect and reverence for his parents in letting the endowments bear *his own name* instead of theirs, but the memories of his youth and the *fifth* commandment, "Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee," seem to have been always primary and paramount considerations with him.

Madame de Stael in one of her works, but which of them I cannot at the moment recall, expresses herself as having no *veneration* for any being in the universe but God and her father. Mr. Seybert has been for many years a sincere believer in the Christian religion, and of course could have used no language as little reverential to the Almighty, as that of Madame de Stael, but he has appeared to me to have had, ever since I have known him, a sincere veneration (which he would have been unnatural not to have had) for his father ; for though that father was what the world would now perhaps call a *hard* father, Mr. Adam Seybert was so in consequence of his profound affection for his son, whom he desired to make at least his equal and if practicable his superior in the sciences of chemistry and mineralogy, to his knowledge of which he was mainly

indebted, at a comparatively early period of life, for both reputation and fortune, and the importance of which, in the future to his country and the world, he fully appreciated.

In speaking of Mr. Seybert's will I am reminded of his delay and difficulty in determining its provisions. This was the result of what he believed to be information from on high; that though he had long since passed the three score and ten years allotted to man, enough more years would be allowed him to enable him to witness great moral changes in the world, and the commencement of the "Heavenly Kingdom on earth." The excellent health he had for many years enjoyed, due to his regular habits and even temper, naturally aided in encouraging this idea, and but for a protracted illness growing out of a very slight cause, he would probably have postponed indefinitely signing and executing a will, which, in such a contingency, he would probably have deemed superfluous and perhaps undesirable.

The slight cause alluded to, was his wearing for the first time, about three years ago, at a dinner party in the country, some twenty miles from Philadelphia, a pair of boots not before used, the pressure of one of which for six or eight hours (the day being warm) upon a bunion on one of his feet, produced a serious swelling ending in inflammation of the whole foot and its suppuration, by which he was confined to his house and bedroom for many months; preventing, during

that period, his usual exercise in walking and driving, and causing thereby a corresponding diminution of appetite and strength. This great change produced, naturally, doubts in his mind as to his previous anticipations of his life being much longer extended, notwithstanding the assurances of the Spiritualistic mediums consulted by him, and a gradual though slow improvement in his health and appetite during the spring and summer of 1882, by visits to the Saratoga and Richfield Springs and the Coney Island baths, near New York, and these doubts caused him to consider and act on the presumption that he and those who looked to his life being prolonged were probably mistaken, and the early and close consideration by him of such a will as would carry out as nearly as practicable his views.

He had frequently in previous years, asked my opinion as to what I would do *in his place*, and with his views; that is to say, if I were unmarried and had no children and my near relations were all in easy circumstances. I had always replied to the inquiry that I knew of no charity which, in my opinion, would be so beneficent and valuable to Philadelphia as an institution having from the Legislature paternal powers to take up little boys and girls, neglected or abandoned by their parents, and who were crowding our streets either openly as beggars, or in the guise of "Newspaper boys," or on other pretexts, and who would necessarily grow up unfitted for any useful occupation;

but who, if under the care and control of a benevolent association, duly authorized to apprentice them to proper parties at the proper times, would be fitted for lives of usefulness in the occupations selected for them; that I believed there would be no serious difficulty in getting the proper legislation for such an institution, and in finding competent, honest, honorable and benevolent gentlemen to act as trustees in it, *if he would found it and act as one of its trustees during his life time*, and that such an institution would probably live and do its work for centuries, if the trustees, carefully selected, were not only authorized but *required* to fill *promptly* vacancies by death or other causes as they occurred. Mr. Seybert was impressed by these views, and at an earlier period of life, and previous to his belief in Spiritualism, when he could have acted as a member of the trust, would probably have adopted them. As it was, realizing that he could not reasonably expect to live more than two or three months, he deemed it best to give up the idea of an early trusteeship for the proposed charity, and do what he could to promote the object in his will which was signed, sealed and executed on the 25th of December last.

A reader of the will will find in one of the last clauses of it, that he directs his body to be "cremated at the Lemoyne Cemetery at Washington, Pennsylvania." I knew that cremation had been for many years preferred by him to the usual mode of sepul-

ture, or any other plan yet adapted for disposing of the human corpse, and here was one of his most remarkable singularities or peculiarities as I termed them in the first paragraph of this memoir: for it was whilst he was considering, or had perhaps determined on, cremation *for himself* that he was planning the transfer of the remains of his father from Paris, where they had for many years previous been interred in [I think] the Père la Chaise Cemetery; and those of his mother from her supposed last resting place many years earlier in Philadelphia, to the older portion of the Laurel Hill Cemetery of our city, where he wished their remains to be interred side by side, and where he expressed to me many years ago the desire that any ashes which might remain from the cremation of his own body should be used in sprinkling their graves, and causing the flowers and turf thus to grow fuller and more perfectly over them! Such was his respectful and affectionate reverence for both father and mother!

Peculiar and even paradoxical as Mr. Seybert sometimes appeared to be, he had the high respect and regard of those who knew him well, and during his last serious illness, he was not only comforted, but his life, it is believed, prolonged by the thoughtfulness of ladies, who sent him delicately prepared food which nourished and sustained him, and without which he would probably have died some months earlier than he did, but which made his more sanguine friends, even

as late as January last, hopeful of his recovery. About that time, it was ascertained by his able physician, Dr. Pepper, that "Bright's disease existed in a latent and " unsuspected form. Although, therefore, he con- " tinued able to drive out daily for some time, and " was able to discuss business subjects, as well as all " other topics, until within a very few days before his " death, he failed gradually but steadily," and his death, which occurred on the 3d of March following, was anticipated by him.

I have said, I think, enough in this memoir to give to those who may read it a fair impression of Mr. Seybert and his peculiarities. I do not think that any one understood him better than myself, or enjoyed more his confidence, and knowing his charitable views I was happy to give him counsel and aid when it was desired by him in investments, or in any other way. For these services he would, I have no doubt, have offered compensation if he had not been satisfied it would be declined, during his lifetime, and would not be expected at his death.

No one could have regarded death more firmly or with more composure, and it pleased the Almighty that his death should not be a painful one. To the last days of his life, he was occupied in charitable acts or suggestions, and directing as to the funeral services to be performed at his house, previous to the transfer of his remains for cremation at the Lemoyne Cemetery. His composure and firmness in death might naturally

have been expected in one who, not only in the close, but during the greater part of his matured life, had been governed in all his acts by a paramount sense *of duty*.

I met with, some years ago in a newspaper, the following lines, of which I have not been able to ascertain the author, but which seemed to me so applicable to Mr. Seybert that I gave him at the time a copy of them, which will probably some day be found among his papers :

I slept, and dreamed that life was beauty,
I woke, and found that life was duty ;
Was thy dream then a shadowy lie ?
Toil on, worn heart, unceasingly,
And thou shalt find that dream to be
A truth, and noon-day light to thee.

The Zone of Asteroids and the Ring of Saturn. By Professor Daniel Kirkwood.

(Read before the American Philosophical Society, Oct. 5, 1883.)

Evidence in support of the following theses was published by the present writer in 1866-7:

I.

In those parts of the zone of minor planets where a simple relation of commensurability would obtain between the period of an asteroid and that of Jupiter, the original planetary matter was liable to great perturbation. The result of such disturbance by the powerful mass of Jupiter was the necessary formation of gaps in the asteroid zone.

II.

The great division in the ring of Saturn may be explained by the disturbing influence of the satellites, and the more narrow division discov-